

BLOODY LEADERS

APART from taking one giant step forward for womankind by getting herself declared an honorary man in an Islamic country (which presumably means that she would not necessarily be publicly executed in the unlikely event of her committing adultery) so that she could appear in public, our Prime Minister has endeared herself to the accountants who run Britain by winning significant contracts for the one industry in the UK which is not affected by the recession.

An initial contract for Hawk jet trainers for the United Arab Emirates is hoped to be the forerunner for much larger orders for the same plane adapted for its other role as ground attack weapon. If indeed this possibility were followed up by the Arabs, this would mean that Mrs Thatcher (who, as her statements on Brixton show, abhors violence) has helped to clinch a deal worth around £100 million for about 35 planes. And of course, that is only the beginning, for training and combat planes alike have to be maintained in tip-top condition at all times, which means adequate supplies of spares, engines and all back-up equipment and know-how. Very profitable.

Even more profitable, too, if they are actually used in combat, in which incidentally, they may well be shot down by British planes supplied in the past to the Israelis. They, though, have been naughty enough recently to have preferred certain categories of French planes - which may be why that other travelling salesman in death, President Giscard d'Estaing, was not successful in selling the Franco-German Alpha training plane to the Arabs.

The speed with which the arms deal was agreed indicates that there

'All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand'

BUT THE MASSIVE PROFITS WILL BE A NICE SWEETENER !



was some pretty satisfactory horse-trading from the Arab point of view as well. It has been said that one of Thatcher's aims was to do a bargain deal on oil and ensure cheaper oil from the Middle East, but in view of the fact that Britain is now an oil-producing country it would be illogical for any bargain to be struck which did anything to bring down the

price of oil world-wide - although in the privacy of Sheik Zayed's palace who knows what discount prices might have been haggled out? Cheap oil for cheap planes?

After all, Margaret Thatcher sees herself as supreme ruler of the British worker, just as Sheik Zayed is supreme ruler of Abu Dhabi and President of the UAE. They can both

crack the whip - and in the present economic climate workers in ordnance factories must be more than glad to have a secure job at any price, so if arms deals entail accepting reduced wage deals, we don't expect much opposition - certainly not from the Trades Unions.

There is another factor which also makes Thatcher's deal significant. It is that there is pressure around the Gulf to standardize weapons systems. It follows then, that whoever gets in with the first large order stands a good chance of getting the whole lot.

What might mean something very serious is the report that in the course of Mrs Thatcher's representation of me and you to the Arab leaders, she was told in no uncertain terms that they consider a settlement of the 'Palestine' question an absolute priority. Just like that. Apparently they also told her they would not provide any local facilities for one of her favourite schemes - the 'rapid deployment force'. This is a highly mobile strike force that, while based in the UK, can be airborne to any trouble spot very quickly.

So Margaret Thatcher may be disappointed on the political field, but is undoubtedly preening herself for her commercial coup. And after all, what does it matter who gets killed as long as the British arms industry flourishes? The present massive unemployment is forcing young men and women into the army; the arms profits provides the means to arm them, on top of the budgeted arms expenditure.

The inference is obvious: that the Arabs, while happy to keep themselves armed up to the eyeballs in their own interests, are not prepared to make themselves targets in anyone else's. But it all bodes ill for Israel.

Gandhi and Zia

Meanwhile, further to the East, murderous leaders in both India and Pakistan are hotting up the nuclear bomb race. India, of course, exploded a 'nuclear device', described by its nuclear scientists as a 'peaceful nuclear explosion'.

Our new wave CND'ers should note that India officially champions international nuclear disarmament, but steadfastly refuses to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and in fact over the years since that explosion in 1974, steadily gone on producing the means for producing bombs. The Indian example is a very good one of how power corrupts, and today hardly anyone remembers that Indian independence from British rule was fought with Gandhi's words inspiring massive non violent resistance and really only a small amount of rioting and violence. The Congress Party was supposed to be based on Gandhian principles - but the reality of running a state, and trying to make it more 'modern', facing also the terrible clashes between the highly religious Muslims and Hindus and the bitterness of partition, meant falling into the same sort of patterns of ruthless state management that Stalin adopted when faced with the similar task, as he saw it, of modernising a backward state in a hurry.

Mrs Indira Ghandi (no relation), perhaps now more subtle than on her first time round, has succeeded in building a chauvinistic, militaristic state - with the help of Pakistan to create the 'need' for massive weaponry. For over the border, General Zia, with a little help from his friends and some stolen atomic secrets (how hackneyed can you get?) is well on the way to creating an 'Islamic Bomb'. Allah, if he is anything

like Jehovah, will undoubtedly be delighted.

The upshot of this patriotic fervour is that the Indian/Pakistani subcontinent is now declared (by a panel of 'experts' assembled by the US State Department) to be second only to the Middle East as the most likely theatre for the start of a nuclear war. Which doesn't stop President Reagan from supplying arms to General Zia and pussyfooting on the Non-Proliferation Treaty where Pakistan is concerned. So much for the effectiveness of the Treaty!

Churchill

To bring you back home for a final look at how moral the British are, we bring to your attention the recent revelations that the greatest Englishman of all time, Winston Churchill in an angry response to the German V-weapons in 1944, considered the use of chemical and germ warfare against 6 major German cities - including Anthrax, which would have killed 3,000,000 Germans, rendering cities and countryside uninhabitable for 40 years at least.

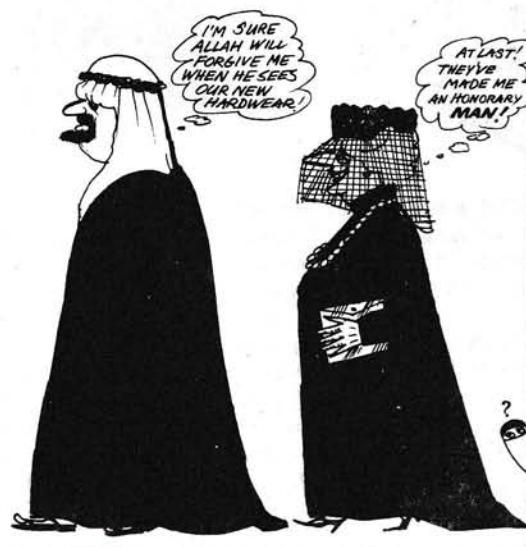
Anthrax kills in a terrible way, brings lingering suffering in the 'survivors' and poisons the land for decades. Churchill also wanted to use mustard gas, the poison gas which was internationally outlawed after the First World War demonstrated its terrible effects in blindness and choking, agonizing death.

Only in the fact that by the time the quantities Churchill wanted to use were in production, the war was virtually over saved England from the distinction of being the only country to use this filthy weapon - which it is still possible, incidentally, to produce at the chemical warfare establishment at Porton Down.

Another victim

As we go to press, we learn that the IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands has died. Another victim for British Imperialism in general and Margaret Thatcher in particular.

When will the peoples of the world recognize the dreadful similarity of leaders everywhere? Whatever their declared motivation - economic, political or religious - the demands of the state and the corruption of power lead to identical attitudes towards the rest of humanity - and identical destructive and inhuman behaviour.



Political prisoners in West Germany

On 16th April 1981, Sigurd Debus, member of the RAF, died in the 11th week of a collective hunger-strike.

IT took the West German state 64 days and the death of a hunger-striker, before it answered some demands of those on hunger strike.

On the day of the death of Sigurd Debus, 25 political prisoners of the RAF called off the hunger strike after the West German Minister of Justice had given as assurance, in a letter to Amnesty International, that none of the political prisoners will be kept any longer in conditions of isolation, but put together in several small groups. Two prisoners, Karl-Heinz Dellwo and Heinz Herlitz, carried on the hunger strike for two more days because of even worse conditions applied to them in the prison of Celle.

Some of the demands of the RAF prisoners were:

The minimal guarantees of the Geneva Convention be applied to the prisoners of the RAF and other resistance groups, that is to say, that they be allowed to associate under conditions that make interaction possible; this means the abolition of the control of all communications electronically, acoustically and optically which takes place within units of isolation that are sound/light/air conditioned.

The West German State applies special programmes of imprisonment only against those prisoners who come from militant resistance groups. These prisoners are subjected to isolation torture in the silent cells of the 'high-security

wings' - many for over 4 years, with no association periods at all, some with no exercise period either. Surveillance of the prisoners is total, in the soundproofed, white-walled cells which are constantly lit. If prisoners do have association it is behind a partition window of bullet-proof glass. Visits of 1 hour (if permitted at all) take place in the same conditions.

The state acknowledges the political nature of the resistance by the methods it employs to try to crush it. The policy of criminalisation is a crucial part of a co-ordinated international strategy to deny the claim of prisoners to their identity, in order to deny the political nature of the resistance both inside and outside the prisons.

The unification of laws within Western Europe has been designed to neutralise all forms of internal opposition. Meetings of the Council of Europe have already agreed on areas of agency-to-agency co-operation;

- 1) to share information on resistance tactics and techniques
- 2) to set up working groups to develop the use of computers, police communication and forensic science
- 3) to exchange police personnel between countries and to develop collaboration on police training
- 4) to develop co-operation in the field of aviation.

Prison repression is not an aberration which can be ended by humanitarian intervention. The techniques of repression have been deliberately planned on an increasingly co-ordinated basis throughout Western Eur-

ope, and must be seen as a whole with other forms through the courts, the police and the security forces.

Despite the repression, resistance is gathering momentum across Western Europe, and the fight is being waged inside and outside the prisons for the final liberation.

International Commission for the Protection of Prisoners, Box 152, 182 Upper St, London N1

Victims

THREE men in Portlaoise Prison, in Ireland, are appealing to the Supreme Court to get their sentence of death commuted to one of life imprisonment.

The three are Pat McCann, Peter Pringle and Colm O'Shea, and they have been convicted of killing a policeman, last summer, when trying to escape after a bank robbery.

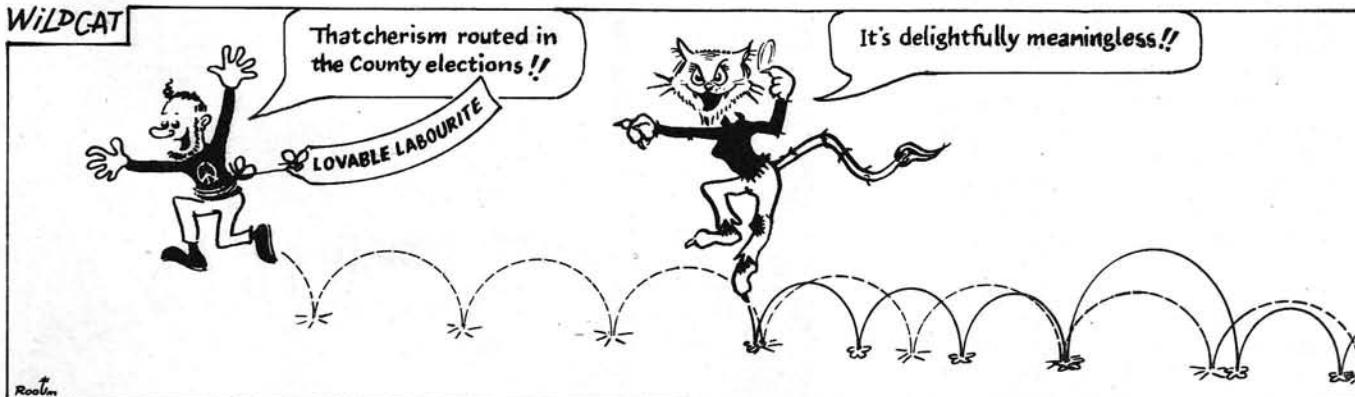
The death penalty is abolished in the Irish Republic, except in the case of killing a policeman. There was not much evidence against the three, and all of it was circumstantial or forensic. In several recent cases the Irish police have been shown to have falsified such evidence.

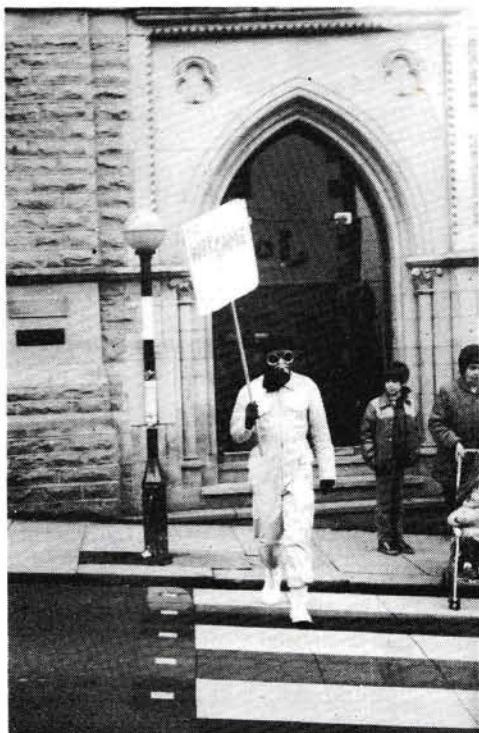
Their case went before the Special Court, which is a special political court in Dublin, and they were found guilty in record time.

We feel that these three men, as well as the police, have become victims, we support their appeal against the death sentence. The government is using this case and others to try and label all dissent as criminal.

If you would like to help, you can write to the prisoners at Portlaoise Prison, Co Laois, Ireland and/or write to us for more information: The Netherlands Committee Against State Murder, c/o Postbus 16544, 1001 RA, Amsterdam.

WILDCAT





CHICKENTOWN lies betwixt the western seaboard of the Lancashire Riviera and the misty Pennine Chains. It's a small, bustling, busy market town that's run and controlled very tightly thankyou, by a brace of well-to-do shopkeepers. Much effort goes into making the place attractive to tourists which has its advantages (we haven't got a shopping precinct) and disadvantages, namely, that nothing actually happens here outside the Womens Institute/Rotary Club world view of things. In fact on the surface it's all very cosy and should you wish to while away days with a mortgage, odd nights out at the pub and holding down a steady job then there's not a soul who will worry you.

Occasionally, I don't know why but I do, I go and sit up in the public gallery and watch the charade of council meetings where upstanding chickens peck points over interpretations of sub-committee minutes and now and then, planning permission is granted to convert an old barn into a five bedroomed mansion that'll eventually end up as an Estate Agent's blurb with a handsome mark up. Often I ponder on how they would deal with my application to throw up a 200 ft. helter skelter resplendent with flashing neon lights in the local park! But no doubt there would exist some by-law against it.

All towns should have giant helter skelters, canals that go nowhere and ridiculous follies erected around every corner. To ask why is to miss the point.

RETURN TO

Meantime life goes on as uneventful as ever and we all get wrapped up in the trivialities of everyday life. I keep reaching points in my life where I turn back and ask: 'well was thatit.' 'was that all it was.' So much easier (to take from Colin Wilson) to allow the Robot to switch on and let it take over your day. Better to go along with the flow of things, keep your nose clean and become a sort of passive observer of the odd hiccups that spark up as you plod through your day.

It all sounds somewhat glum but essentially all this was sparked off by a conversation with an old Trade Unionist I knew from the old days. Years and years ago he had led a strike at a Mill in Nelson where the Masters had tried to starve the weavers out. It's a tale not without interest though I suspect he's added a little colour as the years have slipped by. What struck me as being of major importance was that the incident was all he had really done in his life. True he had gone on to become a sort of professional committee man who has steered a few things along various lines - a touch of rudder here, a puff of wind there - you know the sort of thing. But always, when the pints had been flowing, he'd go back to the same old story of the Mill and the Masters and the kids living on bread and scrape. Perhaps we all have some point in our lives

which we can look back on as the high point of our existence. A holiday, a sexual encounter, a close scrape with a violent end. A time when our senses of love, of anger, of wild urgent interest have vividly taken over parts of our day to day life. And how much of our life is taken over avoiding getting ourselves into situations where we would have to use these emotions. How we ignore and insulate ourselves from hearing neighbours' screams from breaking up a yob's fight, from heckling at a council meeting, from going along to our local supermarket and daubing across the doors in fucking great letters: 'You Are Ripping Us Off'.

Because to do so mate, is to put yourself out on a limb, to maybe get singled out for punishment as an example to the others and besides, it upsets the natural balance of things. To break out of the Robot barrier is to risk being crucified.

Roundabout halfway in all theoretical articles the following sentence should always appear: Having thought about the previous points carefully and having looked at all the factors from several different angles I got out on the street and tried them out in practice.

A few folk around here have formed a local CND group and as a publicity stunt I'd conjured up the idea of parading myself around Chickentown complete with a banner, fall-out suit and gas mask. Such



CHICKENTOWN

ideas are easily spoken under the guise of a few jars but I committed myself mainly on the grounds that you should at least attempt to pit your emotions against the streets. Get out there lad. See what it's like. Try out the water. Put it to the test.

But the Robot was at work nagging away for days beforehand. 'You'll get yourself into hot water'. 'What's it all for anyway?'. 'Why risk your job?'. 'You'll miss Tiswas'. 'Why not stay at home, have a brew and read a good book?'. Equally the Robot would express itself in symptoms of mild anxiety. I'd get clammy palms and prickly hair thinking about the Saturday jaunt. For this is Chickentown and not Ladbroke Grove where Grade A nutters come at ten to the new penny. Only Starsky and Hutch, Buster Crabbe and genuine psychopaths have courage as constant asset. The rest of us have to work at it and build up to a predetermined event.

But the Saturday morning came and I stepped out on to the streets. It's a curious feeling but an immediately identifiable one. Once that first step is taken a warm confident wave flows through you. All that's really hard about it is the pre build up anxiety. Once you're in the water then you're away with a new current that has been there all the time. Only your day to day fear has prevented you from seeing it. And the most fascinating aspect is that once you're swimming in that current you are aware of even stronger currents flowing just a couple of strokes away.

Apart from the ego aspect the parade was designed to produce a 'reaction' amongst the Saturday morning shoppers. It's difficult to assess if your vision is restricted to a couple of gas-mask portholes but it is not without interest. Most tried to ignore the spectacle as if I wasn't there, perhaps reflecting current nationwide attitudes, that maybe soon similarly attired folk will be commonplace about the country but until they are I prefer to ignore the thought of it thankyou very much.

All the young children, the one section of society you meet who are honest, immediately asked the right questions: 'Who's that man

mummy?'. 'What's he doing dad?'. 'What's the War Game?'. Alas most kids were fobbed off or in a couple of cases were smacked and told to be quiet if you are out shopping with your mother. Sad really isn't it?

The constabulary didn't seem interested but then again I kept moving, tried not to obstruct the pavement nor did I deliberately entice people to breach the Queen's Peace. That only left myself open to a charge of conspiring to cause explosions with others unknown. But I escaped that.

Life in a painted nylon fall-out suit and gas-mask is a bloody uncomfortable and sweaty procedure and after an hour the end was favourite. Back to our Tea-bag existence of instant 'smash', Pebble Mill at One, timetables, mugs of tea and rows of council houses. Robots



parade the streets ticking over at ten percent or even less. We nearly spend our lives on a subscriber status, living our lives on memories, consuming history as passive observers. But then again you have to work it out for yourself. To really understand what is possible you have to go beyond everyday trivialities into the impossible. Cheery bung.

PETER GOOD
with help from DW&SR



Photos by
Doreen Frampton

IN BRIEF

THE Greater London Council is looking for new premises for an underground war room, from which to govern North London after the holocaust. Their old place is no longer usable, as road works above it have caused it to leak. One can only assume that it was constructed according to the recommendations of 'Protect and Survive'.

THE latest review of the Prevention of Terrorism Acts, reports that between November 1974 and March 1981 more than 5,100 people have been held. This resulted in 73 people being charged with offences

under the Acts and another 20 with conspiracy. In addition 270 people were charged with offences not covered by the Acts. Of the 73 PTA charges, 59 resulted in convictions.

A WORKING paper from the Law Commission has recommended that the criminal offence of blasphemy should be abolished. This follows the derision that was stirred up by the use of the law against 'Gay News' a couple of years ago, the first prosecution for over 50 years. A spokesperson for the Department of Social Responsibility of the Methodist Church said, 'I think that God is well able to take care of himself.'

IRISH REPORTS

Powerplay

THE hunger strike for political status is once again heading for crisis. With that, it can be said that confusion will again be rampant among those who supported the campaign on the streets. The support outside the H-Blocks, second time around, has been at a much reduced level.

The campaign of support in the south for the dirty protest and the subsequent strikes is embodied in the National H-Blocks/Armagh Committee and their one issue, broad spectrum of support approach. This approach has constantly been directed at seeking the support of the establishment, in particular the bourgeois republicans in the Fianna Fail Party whose leader, and present State prime minister, Charles Haughey is the living example. The campaign has sought to impress the establishment and the media by the sheer force of the spectacle at rallies and meetings, e.g. '20,000 March in Dublin' etc.

It has, in other words, made people the object of the powerplay. Its speechmakers have constantly talked down to the people and its whole philosophy and structure (inherent in the Republican movement) has expropriated from people their right to debate, decision-making and action. It is because of these truths and the alienation that people feel after the show of events last time around, that the second campaign has been lessened in numbers.

The position of much of the left is ridiculous. Groups such as Peoples Democracy (Trot) have willingly become party to the structure and methods, seeing in the Republican movement and its history the vehicle for change. Within the NHC there is no room for debate or criticism and any that is levelled is labelled sectarian and counter-productive. The ultimate condemnation of this is the use of exactly the same tactics in the present strike as were used the last time. The NHC is incapable of change or redirection, it being above all a necessary piece of bourgeois democracy.

Republican ideology has reached its historical limits, and the move-

ment has condemned itself to be the military wing of the bourgeois nationalists.

While I would think that it is essential that anarchists support the prisoners as part of the present struggle, it would be foolish to see in it anything beyond that. Every day the real struggle becomes more and more evident. The British occupation of the six counties will end and it is now only a question of when. We have the IRA to thank for that. But what is coming is American capital with all its Brave New Ideas. The road to freedom lies with the working class and whatever fragments there may be. Towards anarchy now!

KEVIN DOYLE

Kilburn rout

ON Sunday April 26th, hundreds of people gathered outside Kilburn station to attend a rally in support of the H-Block hunger strikers. The intention, originally, was to march to Central London, but due to a blanket ban on marches for 28 days within the area controlled by City of London and Metropolitan Police, this intention was thwarted from the start. Almost as soon as the first speaker began, a cordon of police, two-deep, stretched right across Christchurch Avenue, behind the lorry platform, and reinforcements continued to arrive as the crowds moved off down Kilburn High Road to make their own ways to Downing Street. The police reaction was vocal, swift and solid. Demonstrators were pushed violently back towards the underground station and those who showed the least resistance (even if they were on the pavement) were bundled into the waiting fleet of green coaches. In one particularly fierce advance, I was pushed against a plate glass window and saw two women fall to the ground under the weight of people.

After clashes near the junction with Iverson Road, several demonstrators were arrested, and the majority of the crowd resolved to dash to the underground station and get to Charing Cross. From there, we were able to march the length of Whitehall. A hypnotic chant of 'Bobby Sands - M. P. !' echoed across to the Houses of Parliament. For about eight minutes Whitehall was ours and startled tourists looked on speechless. A few straggling policewomen called for re-inforcements on their radios. By the time Downing Street was reached, the police had arrived and no mistake.

A portrait of Bobby Sands, placed between the legs of a statue of Monty,

was swiftly and ceremoniously torn apart by a visibly furious cop. Cameras clicked and rolled - the point had already been made.

Little resistance was being offered at this stage, and it didn't take the police long to break up the march (after, curiously, prolonging it through several streets towards the Embankment) and they breathed out again. Once again, it was shown who controls the streets of London. Once again, it is shown that passive demonstrations are not enough and it makes clear just what forces are ready to be mobilised should such resistance take more active and determined forms. The arrests and the injuries followed a familiar pattern. The cops got a bit more practice. A population under siege goes home to its tea.

Lynne

A Tribal Martyr

AS WE go to press, it appears likely that Bobby Sands MP will have died of self-induced starvation by publication date.

The tragedy of Northern Ireland is one of tribalism: neighbours in the same territory who consider themselves to be of different nationalities. Sands as a hunger striker was elected on tribal lines. It so happens that in his particular constituency the 'Irish' outnumber the 'British', so on a massive turnout he defeated the Unionist candidate by a small majority.

The Provisional IRA, of which Sands was 'commander' in the H-blocks of the Maze prison, are a group of murderously violent tribalists, and the sincerity with which they hold their beliefs should blind no one to the fact that these beliefs are reactionary and authoritarian.

The hunger strike, however, was not itself part of a campaign to put the IRA in power. Its object was to secure 'special category' status for Sands and other prisoners who were convicted and sentenced by special courts without juries - a status already enjoyed by many prisoners in the 'Cages', another part of the Maze prison, without discernable increase in the number of escapes, or any effect on the level of violence outside. It is difficult to follow the argument advanced by the authorities, that granting 'special category' privileges would do more harm than than permitting this young man to become a tribal martyr.

PAT

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

Model W.Germany

Dear Friends,

As you have no doubt noticed, we haven't published any material on the theme 'The Model West Germany' in the last year.

This came about on the one hand because we were all engaged in other projects of both a theoretical and practical nature. On the other hand, though, because a discussion started up among us as to whether our work is not made obsolete by the move of other Western European countries towards a situation similar to that in the social democratic Model West Germany.

Thirdly, we ourselves have problems in analysing and presenting the more hidden face of the Model West Germany; the side which isn't expressed in open and spectacular forms of repression, but which through various methods of integration, has the same effect i.e. the pacification of social unrest.

Above all this aspect of the Model West Germany is registered abroad with particular amazement. The relative economic and political stability of West Germany is noted with astonishment even by people, contemporaries, comrades or whatever who tend to a more critical position.

We think that a broader presentation especially of two areas would be of use:

1. - the West German trade union and working class movement and its almost complete integration into the West German state.
2. - the immigrant workers, who, without the right to immigrate and under special control as second class residents can be either added to or removed from the labour market at will.

Apart from these two themes, growing neo-fascist activity in West Germany is among other things taking on a special significance. Not the attacks themselves - Munich fits in perfectly with the fascist attacks in Bologna and Paris - but rather the reactions to these attacks in West Germany as opposed to those in Paris and Bologna, give an insight into the present conditions in West Germany: whereas in France and Italy hundreds of thousands of people protested against growing fascism, racism and the entanglement of state institutions in the

attacks, in Munich the October Beer Festival continued to be celebrated and public protest was almost non-existent.

We also stand helpless in face of these phenomena.

In short: it may be some time before we can continue our work. But that doesn't mean we won't pack any little parcels any more!

Still available:

Nr. 1 Berufsverbote (very few photocopies in English)

Nr. 2 Computerized Surveillance (now Nr. 6)

Nr. 4 The Stammheim Death (in German and very few photocopies in English)

Nr. 5 Atomic Power No Thanks (in large quantities in English and French)

Nr. 6 Under Observation. The Computer and Political Control (in large quantities in English)

Nr. 7 The Atomic State and the People who have to live in it. (in large quantities in English and German)

Any helpful comments, reactions, new ideas.

All will be gratefully received!

Greetings from us in Germany.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MODEL WEST GERMANY

c/o Evangelische Studentgemeinde (ESG)

Querenburger Hohe 287

4630 Bochum 1

West Germany

Political Paper?

Dear FREEDOM,

Some strange things have been published in your pages concerning the situation in Ulster, varying from tolerable to obnoxious - but the latest offering is in a different league altogether (FREEDOM Vol 42 No 8 Page 6). Perhaps it would be simplest to just ask - can anyone show one single part of the article that could not have come from any of the various Republican groups in Ireland?

What next? Exhortations to join the SWP or some other Leninist mob? Vote Labour? I thought FREEDOM was an anarchist paper.

Megalomaniac

Dear Comrades,

Re. Alan Albon's review of 'Jupiter's Travels', FREEDOM Vol 42 No 3.

It seems to me that in his review Alan failed to deal with the fact that the book purports to be more than just an adventure story, but a discussion of an idea. The back cover (of the Penguin edition) proclaims that Ted Simon went on a journey, 'not merely around the world, but into the depths of his soul', (or words to that effect). The title itself, 'Jupiter's Travels' makes it clear that the author thought of the book as being the story of how a man could think of himself as a god as a result of his experiences.

We all know about how, 'All power corrupts...' less well known is the riposte of (I think) A.J.P. Taylor: 'I have never met a railway engine driver who has been corrupted'. 'Jupiter's Travels' should have been an interesting disapproval of A.J.P. Taylor, in that it could have explained how Machines Maketh the Megalomaniac. All motorcyclists are familiar with the thrill of accelerating down the road, and even the most meek and environmentally conscientious will know the feeling of, 'fuck the speed limit, fuck safety, fuck noise pollution, fuck the energy shortage, fuck other road users, I'm going to enjoy myself.' that tends to take over as speed increases. I am quite sure that similar thoughts occur to and influence the behaviour of those at the controls of other powerful machines, such as tanks, bombers and nuclear submarines. Machines have always found themselves associated with mindless, unthinking yet powerful actions by their controllers, from the crushing wheels of Assyrian war chariots to the destruction-line industrialised murder of the gas chambers. Machines allow mortals to become destructive gods.

These thoughts must have occurred to Ted Simon, reaching a climax as he became 'Jupiter' on a dusty road in India. They were obviously a sufficiently important part of the Trans-Global Experience to decide the title of the book he wrote on the subject, and one strongly alluded to by the publishers hype. But on reading the book, one finds that the long-awaited description of how an engine driver can be corrupted will

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have to be waited for still. I agree with Alan that the book is fun to read and contains some highly amusing passages, but, in view of the author's experiences, and of what he must have thought about then, I really find it inexcusably shallow: it simply does not deal with the (especially for anarchists) important phenomenon that the title refers to.

So much for the 'Jupiter's Travels' review. Before anyone accuses me of being rabidly anti-technological, I should mention that I am a biker myself, and think that my daily dose of megalomania is great fun: it means that I can be nice the rest of the time.

A. MEYER
Nottingham

One of thousands

Greetings People,

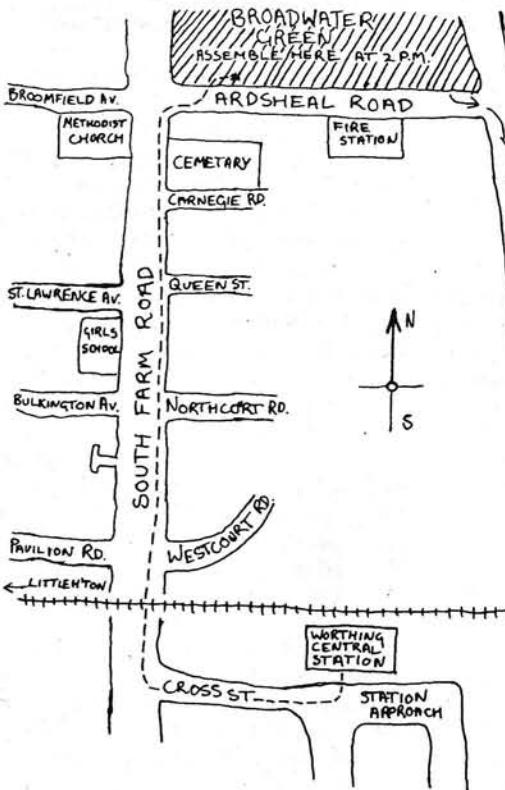
I am but one of the many thousands of poor people imprisoned in Amerika, and recognize that we are the prisoners of the politics of capitalism/imperialism, and although this is a reality it is at times a struggle of anguish as we attempt to motivate the brothers of lesser consciousness in to the study of politics and economics and the mechanization of this society in relation to the overall struggle for change.

I have seen within these walls as well as in society the changing climate and attitudes of many oppressed people over the last ten years due to years of fascist campaigns waged against us by means of psychological and military type tactics employed by the U.S. Government and its sovereign states. Police repression, anti liberation propaganda combined with reformist vacillation has done a lot to slow down the momentum of our struggle. For those of us who have not given up, know that our struggle is perpetual and like all others continues to be a protracted one.

I am presently confined at this maximum security unit serving the remaining few months of a ten year sentence. I have over the years tried to stay abreast of all important national and international events, and also in touch with progressive organizations/groups. I hope that your organization will if possible contribute whatever literature you may have available pertaining to any areas of struggle.

Thank You,
LEON SINGLETON

inflict yourself on reality



WORTHING C.N.D. BAN THE BOMB
MARCH WITH STREET THEATRE,
SPEECHES AND 3 LIVE BANDS.
SATURDAY 16th MAY - ASSEMBLE
ON BROADWATER GREEN AT 2 P.M.

FREEDOMS CONTACTS

Groups

Torbay Anarchist Federation
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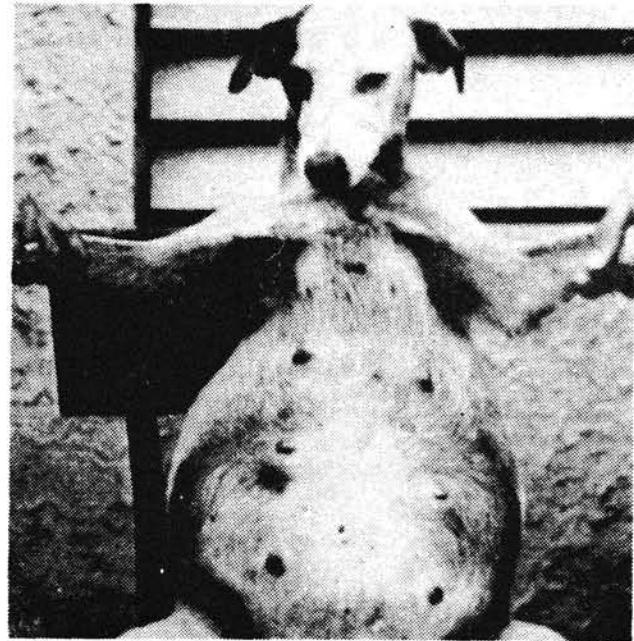
Animal Liberation Front Special

The ALF Story

IT is only in recent years that direct action has played a major part in the struggle to free animals from human tyranny. Before the 1960s almost all organisations opposed to animal exploitation believed in keeping strictly within the law, and directed their campaigns for change towards parliament, by way of petitions and letters to MPs. The only exception seems to have been for a brief period in the 19th century, when an RSPCA youth group, known as the Band of Mercy, used direct action tactics, such as sabotaging the guns of blood-sportsmen to prevent the persecution of animals. Since the demise of that group, the use of direct action had been infrequent and sporadic and carried out by individuals not connected to any particular organisation.

This situation changed in 1962 with the formation of the Hunt Saboteurs Association. The HSA started in a small way with a handful of members disrupting otter-hunting in the West Country, but membership grew rapidly and very soon all forms of hunting with hounds were opposed in many areas of Britain. Methods used to save animals from the hunt included the use of hunting horns to distract the hounds and strong-smelling substances to cover the scent of the hunted animal. Hunt Saboteurs also frequently posed as hunt supporters and sometimes succeeded in sending the hunt in the wrong direction. These methods are still used by the HSA today, with considerable success. Nowadays, the HSA has several thousand members, many of whom are active every week against bloodsports, and the organisation now opposes shooting for 'sport' and angling, as well as hunting with hounds.

Although the HSA is a fairly militant direct action organisation, its policy is to remain within the law and not to indulge deliberately in illegal activities. In 1973, a few HSA members began to feel that it was necessary and justifiable to step outside the law in the fight against bloodsports, and that it was important to cause damage to hunt vehicles in order to prevent the persecution of wild animals. These militants formed an organisation called the Band of Mercy (in memory of the 19th century group) and proceeded to attack vehicles at hunt kennels throughout the South of England.



This dog will be killed to prove by autopsy that the alcohol she is force-fed has damaged her liver.

It wasn't long before the Band of Mercy decided to extend its activities to oppose all forms of animal abuse, and, in November 1973, the group carried out 2 arson attacks (causing nearly £50,000 damage) on a vivisection laboratory being built for Hoechst Pharmaceuticals at Milton Keynes. Over the next 9 months they carried out many more attacks at laboratory animal breeding centres and destroyed a boat due to be used for the killing of baby seals. In August 1974 two BoM activists were arrested by police during a raid on a lab in Oxfordshire and in March 75 they were each jailed for 3 years on a number of criminal damage charges. The resulting publicity attracted many activists and when the BoM changed its name to the Animal Liberation Front, in June 76, it had become a much larger organisation.

At present the ALF has between 50 and 100 local groups. Many of them take action at least once a week. The ALF has a non-hierarchical structure and does not have any 'central committee' or 'governing body'. People become members by taking part in or helping out with ALF actions. Local groups act autonomously and there is a contact network which allows frequent co-ordinated activities to be carried out.

ALF actions are very well planned and this has meant that, despite the large number which have been done, very few activists have been arrested. Six members have spent time in prison and one is currently serving a 3 year sentence. Some have had fines, suspended sentences etc, but most ALF actions remain 'unsolved'. The ALF is currently receiving support from people working inside animal research labs. Lab workers such as cleaners, admin staff and those who look after the animals quite frequently become opposed to animal experiments when they realise what is really happening. Several ex-lab workers have become ALF activists after leaving their jobs - others have remained in the labs passing out info.

There are several ways to help the ALF:-
1) By becoming an activist. This may involve actual rescue of animals or the causing of damage to property.
2) By offering to give either a temporary or permanent home

to liberated animals. (Dogs, cats, monkeys, rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, mice, hamsters etc.)

- 3) By donating money. For actions, special projects, for specialised equipment and for the treatment of animals injured by vivisectionists etc.
- 4) By doing intelligence work. Sending info on establishments for animal abuse. (Those being built or planned). Taking a job in such a place & passing on intelligence.

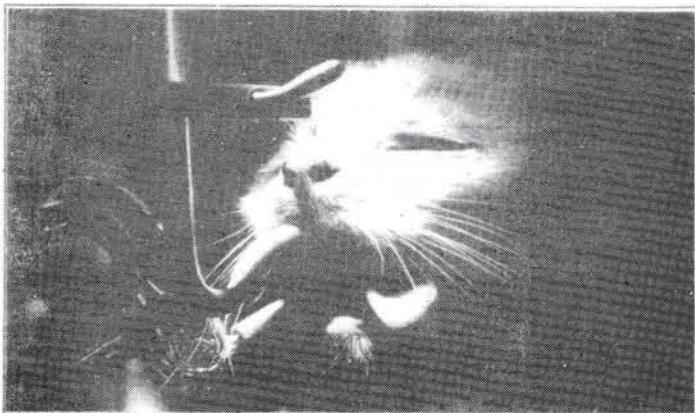
The ALF contact address is; BOX 190, 8 ELM AVENUE,
NOTTINGHAM.

Ronnie

The Radical Theory

IN August 1981, two years will have passed since the publication of the FREEDOM Review ALF Special, and eight years will have passed since the militant tactics of the ALF first began to hit the property of those persons engaged in animal exploitation. What is of first importance is that, during these years, an increasing number of animals have been liberated by direct action; many lives have been saved. That is not only worthy of note. It is worth pointing out that had such liberation - on this significant scale - involved the lives of human beings, its relevance could hardly be missed. The last few years have seen the ALF grow in numbers and in experience. Tactics have proved successful, in direct and immediate liberation, and the resulting publicity has drawn to the numbers of activists many people of varied age, sex, experience, political affiliation, nationality and profession. Publicity has ranged in level from 'Pet-Lovers Riot' to 'Anarchic Burglars' with photographs as diverse as tearful farmers' wives and ALF activists clad in balaclavas. What is certain is that animal liberation is on the world's Agenda - it is firmly declared as action needing consideration and support, and has opened the doors on practices, trades and horrors that many people were content to leave hidden, sanctioned by State 'licence' and labelled as 'necessary' evils. Information as to that which is practised in the name of flesh-eaters, omnivores, pet fanciers, circus audiences, wearers of skins and furs, 'sport' supporters and scientific 'advance' is now being more widely communicated as activists gain further success.

However, the radical theory behind ALF actions needs to be re-stated: not only as a matter of record and further communication, but also for those still unconvinced, uncaring or ambivalent.



Omnivores, for example, assume, with an arrogance worthy of the most loyal fascist, that human life takes precedence over all other life in matters of survival and self-determination. This assumption, endowing the human species with superiority, has been called (in a form of linguistic shorthand) 'specism'. This word is now receiving the same understanding and use as similar ones: sexism, racism, fascism. Whilst one may take a mindless amusement in the addition of yet another 'ism' to everyday language, it is equally mindless to ignore its significance or relevance to liberation, to anarchy, and to the

concept of, and desire for, a total life.

A LF radical theory begins with making no hierarchical distinction between different forms of sentient life - forms of life which can feel pain and which are aware of their own existence. Activists usually avoid getting trapped in the games of scientific line drawing ('what, exactly, constitutes "sentient" life?') - where pain and cruelty are manifestly seen to exist, activists don't have time to play nice theoretical games. No distinction having been made, therefore, an equality (as a norm, not as a metaphysical 'right') is established for all forms of sentient life; in terms of living, survival and self-determination. Anything which prevents such equality existing and continuing is therefore to be prevented, thwarted and destroyed. Similar fates will meet those actions or trades or practices which oppose the return to such equality.

Some theorists will advance such gems as 'But human beings are more intelligent than animals .. why shouldn't we exploit them as we wish?'

Many ALF members would disagree with the first assumption, but given that it is a widely accepted theory, let us look at it. A greater 'intelligence' permitted to exploit a 'lesser' one surely sets an undesirable precedent. If it is thus established then where would it end? Do we then feel free to exploit the 'educationally sub-normal', people from less 'developed' countries, different races, sexes..... should highly-'developed' aliens descend to earth, would it be just fine for them to oppress us by forcing us to breed and eat and then by eating our children? Would we not be compelled to resist; would we not welcome assistance?



Other pearls of armchair debate have included: 'But animals don't feel the same way as human beings - they don't know they're being tyrannised or exploited, so what's wrong with that?' First of all, the basic assumption is incorrect and incomplete. It is irrelevant to seek a similarity of feeling. The fact remains that animals do feel pain. They are sentient beings. Animals cry out in pain, seek freedom from bondage and seek to survive and to determine their own lives. The fact that they seek to lead lives differently from human beings is often to their credit: those who speak of the 'jolly murderous activities' of the fox significantly put to the backs of their minds Hiroshima, Northern Ireland, South Africa, vivisection, pâté de fois gras. If we establish 'degrees' of feeling, do we then permit a similar exploitation of those human beings who 'feel' less than ourselves - the physically and intellectually 'impaired', the 'senile', the alcoholic, the 'deranged', the 'infantile' ??'

The success of animal liberation is a unique threat, in that it is fighting hierarchy and oppression.

Anarcho-feminism has shown the importance of working towards a vision of harmony with ourselves, each other, and sister earth. Vaneigem asks: 'could it be that, after disengaging itself from the animal world, by means of its history, humanity might come to envy the animal's contact with nature?' This is, I think, the childish meaning which should be seen in the search for the 'natural'. But if we could enrich it and set it off in the right direction, such a desire would mean that we had superseded 30,000 years of history.'.... 'We have to resocialise nature by liberating the technical apparatus from the sphere of alienation, by snatching it from the hands of rulers and specialists.'

Camatte has said: 'revolutionary struggle is struggle against

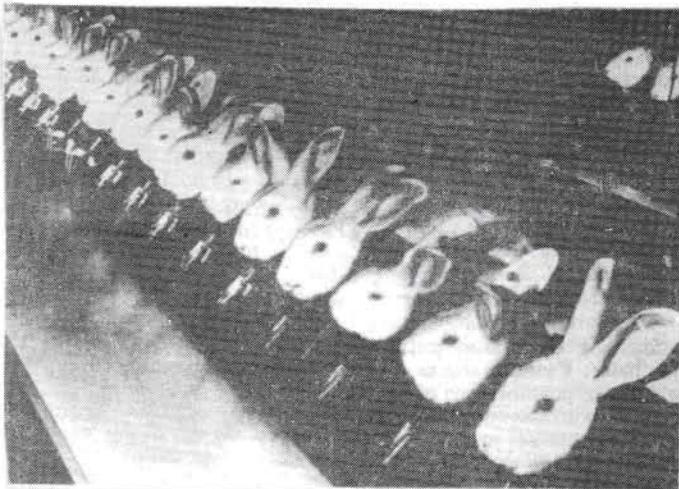
domination as it appears in all times and places, and in all aspects of life.'

Fundamental to achieving the vision of the anarcho-feminists, and that of Vaneigem, is the realisation that domination of the animal species and the natural world must cease. The grain deserts of North America and the stockyards of Chicago, and each illustration in this Review, are monuments to humanity's alienation. A LF radical theory is undermining the plinths.

A LF radical theory is shaking the roots of our passivity. It has shown where the theory ends and action begins. One day new flowers will grow and the crop will be: freedom.

Ann

Animal Experiments



At the Institute of Psychiatry in London, adolescent baboons, which had been caught in the wild, were placed in cages and restraining chairs. Those in restraining chairs had electrodes implanted in their skulls. The baboons were then given a combination of drugs which caused various responses, such as: tremors, rigidity, gnawing at the cage bars, vomiting, panting, screeching cries, seizures, lying prostrate on the floor, chewing at limbs, vigorous clawing at side panels of restraining chairs, twisting of neck and trunk, protrusion and tremor of the tongue.

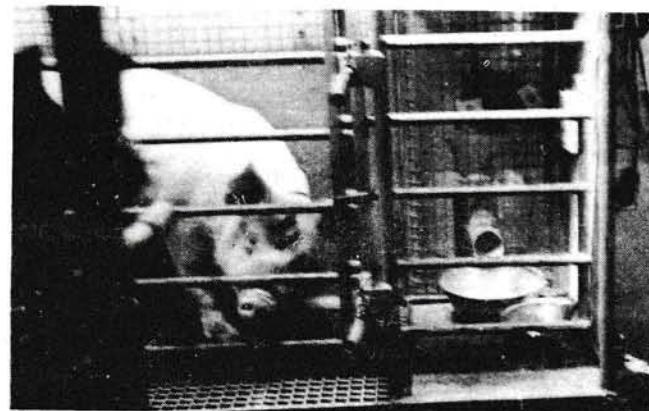
THE above is just one example of the 5 million animal experiments which take place in Britain every year. Over $\frac{3}{4}$ of these tests are done without the use of anaesthetic. World-wide, the number of painful experiments on animals carried out annually is well over the 100 million mark.

The majority of animal experiments in Britain are supposedly done of 'medical research', but a substantial number are done to test such substances as cosmetics, weed-killers, food additives and chemical and biological weapons. Animals are frequently poisoned, blinded, scalded, burned, drowned, electrically-shocked and mutilated in the name of 'science'. Two of the most common (and most cruel) experiments on animals are the LD50 and the Draize Test.

LD50 stands for Lethal Dose 50%. In this experiment, a group of animals are fed (often force-fed) with a substance (a drug, cosmetic, weed-killer etc.) over a period of time, until half of them die from the effects. Sometimes such large quantities of the substance is used that an animal's gut is ruptured. The animals which have not died when the feeding ceases will still have suffered greatly, and many of these eventually die as a result if they are not killed first by the researchers. Many

scientists are opposed to the LD50 Test, because they feel it is misleading, but the government will not give the chemical industry permission to stop using it.

The Draize Test is an experiment in which irritant substances such as shampoos, are instilled into the eyes of animals. Rabbits are usually used as they do not produce tears to wash away the irritant. As anyone who has ever had shampoo in their eye will know, this test causes great pain, and sometimes the animals are blinded and their eyeballs severely damaged.



Pig mutilated and imprisoned at Babraham Laboratories, Cambridge.

In an experiment at Birmingham University, two groups of 12 guinea pigs had their flanks shaved and then burned with heated brass blocks. This treatment resulted in full-thickness burns to 11.5% of the body surface which were not healed within 28 days. One of the groups of 12 had skin grafts made over the damaged areas and their blood was sampled by inserting a hollow needle into the heart.

The objections to animal experimentation, and indeed all animal exploitation, are part of the Radical Theory, but there are also scientific objections to the practice.

The toxicity of a substance in an animal tells us little about its potential effect on human beings. The incidence of illness from taking drugs (almost all tested on animals) has been on the increase for many years. A large proportion of people in hospital are there because of drug side effects. Penicillin has been a very useful drug for the human race in general, but if it was going forward for animal trials today it would be rejected as it is lethal to guinea pigs. Morphine would also be rejected as it induces fits in cats. On the other hand, deadly-night shade has no harmful effects on rabbits, which are a frequently-used experimental animal. The thalidomide tragedy occurred because researchers ignored warnings given by human cell tests and based their findings on the results of animal experiments.

Obviously, funds and effort should be diverted away from animal experiments into the greater use and development of humane alternatives such as tissue and organ culture etc. It would also be better for the human race, as well as for animals, if people refrained as much as possible from using drugs and placed more emphasis on preventative measures and the use of alternative methods of treatment, such as naturopathy, osteopathy and acupuncture, many of which have a far better curative record than orthodox drug medicines.

At the Glasgow Infirmary, groups of rats were placed in wire-floored cages and fed on a synthetic diet. They were injected twice-daily with a high dose of the drug Indomethacin, which caused gut ulcers, perforation and peritonitis within 3 days. After the second day of 'treatment' the rats had the thigh bones of their right legs crushed with dental forceps.

Ronnie

Skin Trade

NANCY Reagan owns a full-length mink coat, bought for about \$22,000 and made up of the skins of over 60 nine month old mink.

To produce a fur coat can mean the deaths of up to 300 animals. Such animals are raised in factories (now 'catering' for silver fox and red deer) or are poached in their own habitats. Wild animals are caught in steel traps and die in agony, cut to the bone. Others are strangled by wires, felled on stakes and used as captive live bait. Bounty hunters in this country skin urban foxes alive and leave their carcasses to rot on rubbish tips. Animals caught in traps have been known to gnaw through their own limbs to escape - to die later of their wounds. A fur coat confirms: status, power, wealth, oppression, torture and death. Great, isn't it.

No necessity exists for human beings in modern living to drape themselves with the skins of slaughtered animals - adequate and efficient man-made and natural alternatives exist. Each time you wrap up in a fur coat, tie a leather belt, step into leather shoes, you confirm the continuing slaughter and cruelty, you deny your own humanity. Mink, for example, are very active, semi-aquatic creatures and suffer greatly from close confinement. The methods of killing are various and are not covered by legislation. It makes a curious defence to point out that the production of certain man-made material alternatives to animal skins causes pollution of the earth and the plundering of mineral and plant resources. This defence ignores the necessary function of animal liberation in a process of reversing total plunder, total slaughter, total destruction and in recognising the limits to growth. Liberation from governing would be a lie whilst exploitation of other (powerless and sentient) species continued. The bloody commerce of the skin trade is as much an enfoulement of our humanity as were the lampshades made from the skins of Jews which featured in many a concentration camp in Europe during World War Two.

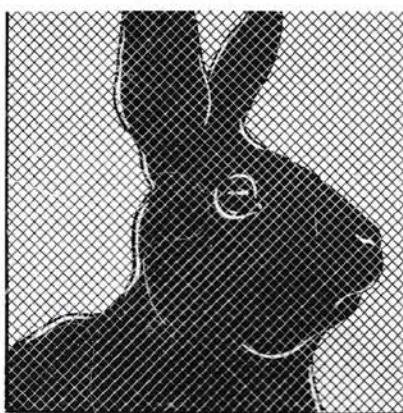


The 'dissolution of the market' is not to be achieved by clothing ourselves in vanity, in confirming practices that we would not use ourselves, or by confirming exploitation and imprisonment in the name of survival. Beware the scientific gladiatorial ploy of line-drawing: 'what about the sanctity of life of bacteria .': 'what's your view on rabid foxes .': 'do leguminous plants feel pain .'. this is so much emotional smoke-screen which enables only ambivalence and passivity to flourish. No such parry of debate has ever removed from my memory the sounds of an animal dying in a poacher's trap or the sight of the bloody remains of a seal-cub skinned alive to provide Mayfair with a consumer toy. No such nicety of theory can ever justify the taking of defenceless and powerless life.

Effective radicality guarantees every freedom - animal liberation ensures that we don't choke on assumed superiority.

Ann

Domestic Slaves



THE keeping of animals as 'pets' has gone on in various human societies for thousands of years. It poses a difficult problem for those concerned with animal liberation.

Undoubtedly, the original 'domestication' of wild animals was an unethical action, but we are now faced with a situation where many 'pet' animals have been bred in such a way, and society has changed to such an extent, that it would be virtually impossible for them to survive if separated from human beings. Every year, the RSPCA and veterinary surgeons put hundreds and thousands of cats and dogs 'to sleep', because they are homeless or unwanted.

The solution to the problem would seem to be the gradual bringing about of a situation where animals are no longer kept as 'pets'. Existing domestic animals should be given homes wherever possible and dogs and cats should be neutered so that they do not breed more of their kind. Many libertarians may wince at this suggestion, but it is really the better of two evils - the alternative being the continued mass destruction of 'unwanted' animals. More animal sanctuaries should be set up by the authorities and organisations like the RSPCA, so that homeless animals can be accommodated instead of killed.

Ill-treatment of domestic animals, and ignorance about the conditions in which they should be kept, cause a great deal of suffering. Rabbits are often backyard prisoners in small hutches from which they are seldom released, and budgies and canaries are kept in tiny cages. Eventually, one hopes, animals such as these will no longer be kept as 'pets' but in the meantime, better education about the most humane ways of keeping domestic animals is needed.

Ronnie

Performing Prisoners

A LMOST all circuses in Britain use performing animals. The creatures are persecuted in two ways.

Firstly, cruel methods are often used to train animals to perform unnatural tricks. These include the frequent use of whips and goads and other forms of violence. Former circus animal trainers have made statements outlining the methods of cruelty employed.

Secondly, for most of the year, circus animals are kept in closely-confined conditions, getting their only exercise for a brief few minutes in the ring. Many circuses have menageries as well as performing animals.

The ALF has been very active against circuses with performing animals. Booking offices have been destroyed and damage has been caused to shop windows displaying their posters.

Most Zoos are little more than prisons for the animals contained therein. Often, cages are small and cramped and little

attempt is made to simulate conditions similar to those which the animal would experience in the wild. As a consequence, many zoo animals become miserable and frustrated.

A few zoos provide reasonable conditions for their animals and attempt to preserve endangered species, but most are simply in it for the money. Safari parks are not as wonderful for the animals as they might first appear. Many of the staff employed in these places are ignorant louts who treat the animals abysmally, and there is a high death rate among dolphins which are imprisoned in many safari park dolphinariums.

Capture of animals in the wild for zoos and safari parks results in a high mortality rate. For every animal that survives the ordeal of capture and shipping, countless others die. For rare apes the death rate can be as much as 8 to 1; for birds up to 50 to 1. Collectors will sometimes kill adults so as to get baby animals, and high-speed attempts to net such swift animals as the giraffe, rhino and zebra can sometimes run them to death. Even capture by tranquilising darts can easily result in a fatal overdose, and many animals die simply from the shock of being taken captive. Those which survive initial capture may die later in the diseased and overcrowded cages at collection centres or by careless handling or starvation or thirst while in transit.

Ronnie

Flesheating

Omnivorous people, as the name suggests, will eat anything. Some people (eg from remote and barren areas) have no choice of food, and eat whatever is available - flesh or vegetation. I will be assuming, for the purposes of this Review, that the majority of readers do have a reasonably free choice and are not starving, eyeball to eyeball with an animal. Please keep this in mind.

Flesheating is big business. Nearly all the fast-food retail outlets opened in the UK lay emphasis on the range and uniformity of quality of the flesh products on offer. From the large meat marketing companies, dairies and factory farms, to the smallholder with a couple of dozen hens & cockerels, all take part in one of the bloodiest and cruel trades known to humanity. It is not enough to affirm that mass slaughter of sentient life is a denial of our humanity and unnecessary in terms of human nutritional needs, what has to be exposed is the everyday horror involved in the trade in animal flesh and to emphasise just what is being established in the name of flesh-eaters and omnivores.

It is currently fashionable to label the radical theory of animal liberation as a 'moral stance' i.e. a denunciation of 'evil' practices, which assumes concepts of 'good' and 'bad' and which makes judgements within such fixed guidelines.



However, for many people within animal liberation groups, myself included, ALF radical theory is part of the desire to take responsibility for an honest life where equality and self-management are norms, not rights, and where humanity re-discovers itself and nature.

Present-day commerce in animal flesh is not only a reflection and a confirmation of the way in which self-management & equality are denied to and by humanity, but also is a stark reminder (as if some of us needed one) of the way in which humanity has disengaged itself from nature. To cease to sanction this commerce is part of re-discovery. To sanction this commerce is to sanction:

* Pregnant sows chained by the neck in unlit stalls

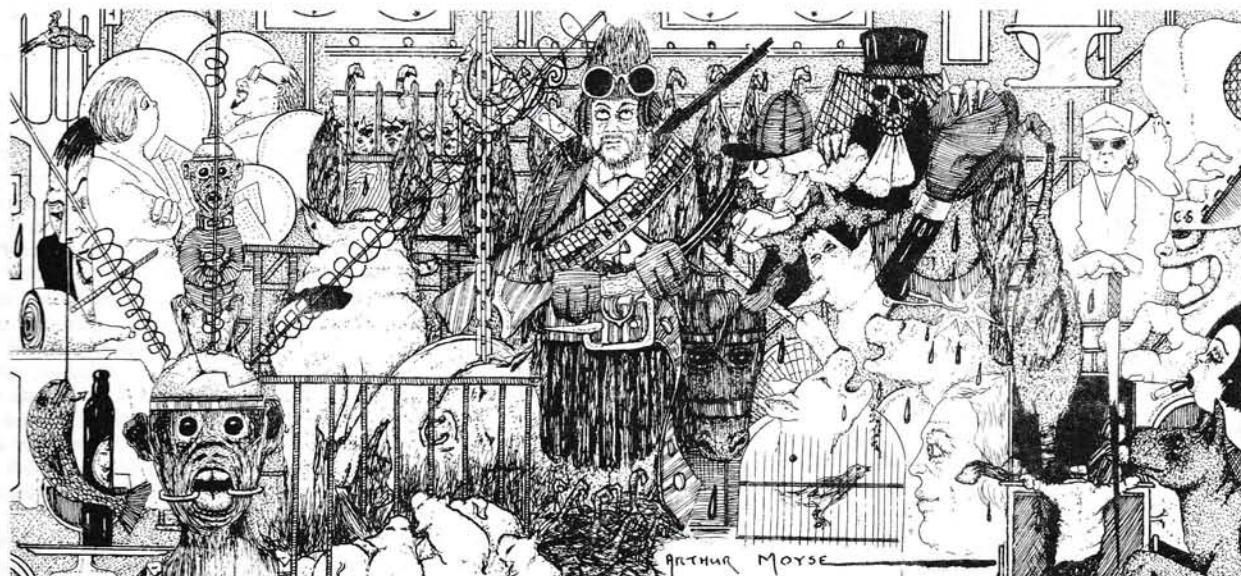
* A Ministry-recommended floor area for each broiler and laying hen smaller than this piece of paper you are looking at.

* Table birds reared on damp litter contaminated with their own excrement, in total darkness, in sheds packed with 100,000 birds.

* Veal calves unable to lie on one side with their legs extended or even to turn round.

* At the Swift Poultry Company in Lincoln, an employee was seen to stub out a cigarette in a live bird's eye and demonstrated how to break a chicken's neck for 'amusement'. Another worker drowned a crippled chicken in a bucket. Birds had their throats cut or were strangled before they were stunned. On the kill line at the factory a great number of chickens had deformed or swollen legs and as they were put in the shackles the deformed legs would break in the workers' hands.

Environments for factory animals are geared to labour efficiency, not comfort. Success in farming is not achieved



by direct care for animal life. It does not depend on the well-being of individual animals. Success is achieved by the maximally efficient use of equipment and is measured by year-end production records. Ponder on whether we should expect human beings to spend 8 hours a day slitting the necks of poultry as they pass before them, stunned, but alive, upside down, hanging from shackles attached to conveyor rails. A report to the TUC, in 1970, referred to a 'de-humanised outlook' in young girls on such poultry production lines.

A vegan life consumes no animal products, and is a life lived by many ALF members. It is healthier, cheaper and a vital part of commitment. Join us in this radical necessity.

Ann

Killing for Kicks

THE persecution of animals for 'sport' in Britain takes many forms; the main varieties being shooting, angling, and hunting with hounds.

There are several hundred packs of hounds in Britain. These are used for the hunting of foxes, deer, hares, mink and coypu. Otters are rarely officially hunted these days, because of a government recommendation against the practice, but mink & coypu hunters sometimes 'accidentally' pursue otters, and the disturbance of the creatures' habitat by these hunts has an adverse affect on its prospects of survival.

Foxhunting takes place between August and April and often results in the fox being torn to pieces by the pack of hounds after a long chase. Even if the fox escapes the hounds, it may still die a lingering death from exhaustion or pneumonia. Sometimes a fox will go down a hole, in an attempt to flee, but if this happens it is usually dug out by hunt followers and either shot or released, to be chased again. There have been many reports of foxes being stabbed or thrown alive to the hounds after being 'dug out', although this is supposed to be against the rules of the Masters of Foxhounds Association.



Hunter displays killed fox.

Between August and the beginning of November, young fox-hounds are 'trained', by being sent into woods to tear to pieces as many young foxes as they can find. Hunt supporters surround the wood making a great deal of noise to prevent the foxes from escaping. Foxhunters claim the fox is 'vermin', and that hunting is the most humane method of controlling them, but the evidence of naturalists shows that both of these statements are untrue and that foxes do not need to be killed at all. The odd 'rogue' fox that steals a farmer's chickens during the daytime is often one that has been weakened by hunting, so that it is no longer able to catch its normal prey.

Deerhunting takes place in the West Country and the New Forest and is somewhat similar to foxhunting. Both stags and hinds are hunted at different times of the year. Hunts claim that they do not hunt female deer during the breeding season, but the hounds cannot distinguish between males and females and pregnant females are often hunted and killed.

A deer hunt usually covers a greater distance than a foxhunt and if the deer doesn't escape, it will eventually be pulled down by the hounds and savaged to death. Sometimes an exhausted stag will stand 'at bay' facing the hounds. If the huntman can keep his hounds away from their quarry he will then try to shoot the animal. Because of the turmoil, a stag will often suffer several gunshot wounds before it is finally killed.

There have been many examples over the years of hunted deer running off the top of cliffs in their terror, or swimming out to sea.

Hares are hunted by packs of beagles and also by greyhounds in hare-coursing. A beagle pack, urged on by the hunters who run in the fields on foot, will pursue a hare until it is exhausted and then tear it to pieces. In hare-coursing, a hare is driven into a field by a group of beaters who frighten them into the coursing area from the surrounding fields. Two greyhounds are then un-leashed to chase the hare and a mounted Judge decides which of the two is the better performer. Sometimes a hare will escape; but quite often it is caught and killed by one of the greyhounds. Now and again, a hare will be caught by both dogs at almost the same time. Then a ghastly tug of war takes place between the two greyhounds, with the screaming hare as the rope.

Mink and coypu hunting takes place in rivers and along river-banks, and, once again, a pack of hounds is used. If the hunted animal is caught, it is torn to pieces. If it seeks refuge in a hole in the riverbank, a terrier is sent in to drive it out or it is poked out with a long pole so that the hunt can continue.

Many people think that badger-digging is abolished in this country, but although there is a law to restrict it, this abominable 'sport' still goes on. Sometimes a farmer will invite badger-diggers on to his land, but often they will dig without permission. When a badger has been dug out of its sett, it is either killed with a blow from a spade or several terriers are set upon it.

Shooting for 'sport' is a very widespread pastime. Almost anything that moves is considered 'fair game' by 'sportsmen' at one or other time of the year. Many thousands of pheasants are specially bred and reared every year, to be blasted out of the sky by toffee-nosed gunmen. In the process of preserving these birds for slaughter, gamekeepers slay many other kinds of wild life, including rare birds of prey. Grouse and other 'game-birds' are also shot down by organised shooting parties. The gun-toting fraternity also shoot down all manner of other animals and birds such as ducks, geese, pigeons, hares, rabbits and squirrels. The worst thing about the sport - apart from the unnecessary widespread slaughter - is the suffering caused to animals that are not killed outright. Many creatures crawl away to die a painful, lingering death after being wounded by an incompetent gunman. Some shooters have dogs to retrieve their quarry, but these are not always successful in finding a wounded animal.

Angling is the largest participation 'sport' in the UK and quite possibly the cruellest. Last year, an RSPCA-sponsored inquiry unanimously found that fish feel pain and that their lips and mouths are particularly sensitive. In Britain, nearly 4 million people take part in angling every year. The suffering caused to fish is almost inconceivable - and the harm done to swans and other birds, who get caught up in abandoned fishing line, or swallow hooks or poisonous lead weights, very considerable. Millions of fish are pulled around in the water on hooks and then dragged out of their element, manhandled and then sometimes clubbed to death or left to die gasping on the bank. Almost all fish caught suffer major physical damage, so even those that are thrown back are faced with a long period of suffering and possible death as a result of their injuries.

Factory fish farming, to provide plenty of 'sport' for anglers now takes place in several areas. Millions of these fish are reared in pools in such closely-confined conditions, that disease is rife.

The Animal Liberation Front has taken a great deal of action against bloodsports. Vehicles and other equipment have been damaged at hunt kennels throughout the country and

the offices of the pro-bloodsports lobby, the British Field Sports Society, have been raided. Hides used for grouse-shooting have been pulled down and pheasants being prepared for the massacres, released from their pens. Angling equipment has been damaged at sports shops and chain stores all over the country.

Ronnie

Occupation/ Extermination

NOT content to plunder the animal species in the names of nutrition, clothing, amusement and 'scientific advance', humanity continues to feed its craving for space for its increasing numbers, at all cost. In the scramble for material wealth, humanity treads with giant feet over the earth. In the process, habitats of many animal species are totally destroyed and many species have been exterminated. Urban expansion, motorways, fuel and mineral extraction, reservoirs, intensive farming, recreation, all contribute to the continuing destruction and devaluing of habitats and wildlife.



Birds found dead on arrival at London Airport from Calcutta.

The State continues to regard rural land as nothing more than food-producing and timber-producing factories - rivers are straightened, hedges and old meadows destroyed, deciduous woods replaced by commercial conifers - water authorities flood whole valleys to meet the increasing demands of humans for water. In this country alone, 37,000 acres of agricultural land are lost every year, 140,000 miles of hedgerows have been lost since 1945 - otters, once common in our rivers, are now rare, as are the 'Common' frog and 'Common' toad. The oceans, choking with pollutants, are losing species after species of animals - Scandinavian herring, menhaden and Atlantic cod are becoming increasingly scarce as a result of more mechanised and intensive fishing practices. Yet humanity does not seem to learn by running into the earth's obvious limits. Whalers have wiped out species after species - in the 40s the blue whale disappeared at the hands of whalers and so this commerce switched to slaughtering fin whales; as fin stocks collapsed they turned to sei whales (25,000 killed in 1965) and now the sperm whale is hunted in the ultimate obscenity.

There is no doubt that material growth cannot go on forever. Counter pressures against such growth have to be made - such as a check on human population growth and a re-discovery of nature and of our own humanity. For the latter to be possible, animal liberation is essential (unless the ambivalent can find ways of extracting nutrition from K9).

In destroying animal life we destroy ourselves and our world.

In 1979, the US Congress heard the following words on the subject of whales:

'...the whale is one of nature's most precious gifts.... peaceful by nature, the whale swims in our oceans at the mercy of whaling pirates and sanctioned industry harvests which far exceed the ability of the present whale population to replenish itself. We must apply more stringent measures.. if we hope to enjoy the company of this life form in years to come. The degradations they have suffered at humanity's hands are innumerable.. the slaughter of these rare and intelligent creatures must cease.'

"All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others" - Animal Farm.

The skin, teeth and bones of the sloth do not appear to be in much demand in the fashion houses of London and Paris. However, every year, millions of animals do not share the same absence of commercial interest.....

One reptile skin tannery in Japan processes 650 million skins a year. India exported an average of 1,850,000 birds a year between 1970-76. France uses an average of 500,000 crocodile skins a year and Germany 350,000. In the USA 9,000,000 individual frogs are used in educational and research establishments annually. In 1977 the total export of ivory from Africa represented the deaths of 120,000 elephants.

Unless we wake up to the enormity of the destruction, powerless life will disappear and our alienation will be complete.

Ann

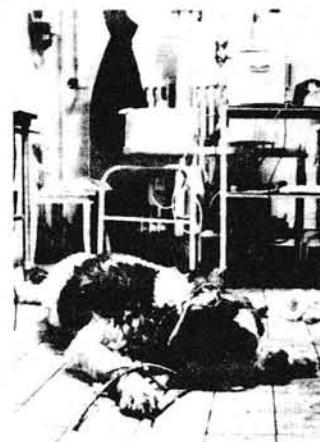
Recent Activities

THE past few months have seen a large upsurge in ALF activity throughout Britain. Local groups (the numbers of which are increasing all the time) have been more active than ever before and have started to take co-ordinated action in a big way.

1981 started in fine style with a co-ordinated night of action against property belonging to animal experimenters. Vivisectors throughout the country awoke on the morning of January 4th to find that their cars and houses had been painted with anti-vivisection slogans. There were about 50 attacks in all, and the publicity gained helped to make many people aware of the horrors of animal experimentation. This included the vivisectors' neighbours, many of whom were shocked and annoyed when they learned the truth about the barbaric activities of the 'respectable' scientist next door. Similar attacks also took place all over the country on April 23rd, to draw attention to World Day for Laboratory Animals.

As well as the above nights of action, there have been many other paint attacks by individual ALF groups on the houses and cars of vivisectors and others involved in animal exploitation.

There has also been a significant increase in the number of animal rescue raids carried out by ALF activists. At the beginning of March, several activists from two or three different groups, broke into the Wickham Laboratory near Southampton



Dog strapped to floor
after a heart transplant
experiment.

and rescued 11 beagles which were due to undergo painful experiments. The director of the laboratory, who claimed that the dogs were worth £1,000 each, offered £1,000 reward for any information etc., but the dogs are all now in good homes and unlikely to be 'recovered'.

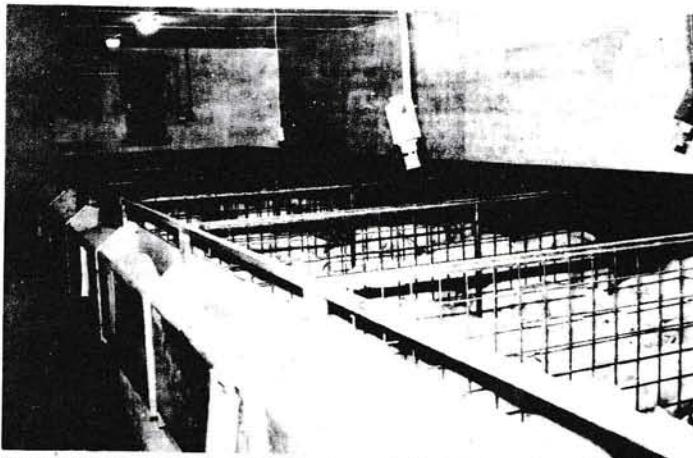
Another group of beagles (ten this time) were rescued on April 12th from Grange Farm, Harewood End., near Ross-on-Wye, a notorious establishment which supplies dogs to vivisection labs. The dogs were removed safely and are also now in good homes, but the police, who later described the raid as 'very well planned', arrived on the scene before all the raiders had got away and three activists were arrested. They are now out on bail and due to appear in court at Hereford in June, on burglary charges.

Well over a hundred hens have been rescued from battery units, mostly in the Home Counties, since the beginning of the year. They have all been found good homes in free-range conditions.

Early in April, the ALF continued its campaign against the killing and dissecting of animals in schools. When a small group of activists rescued 36 gerbils and 10 mice, which were being kept for the dissection table, from a school in Milton Keynes, the animals were being kept in almost total darkness in a windowless room.

Several individual 'pet' animals have also been rescued by the ALF from cruel 'owners'. This has happened in circumstances where there is evidence of considerable cruelty - (beating, starvation, neglect, etc.) and the RSPCA has been unable or unwilling to act. Many RSPCA inspectors aren't up to much, but some of the better ones have established unofficial links with local ALF groups, so that action can still be taken even where the RSPCA's hands are tied.

On March 4th, the ALF carried out a night of action against the fur trade, with co-ordinated attacks on furshops by ALF groups in many parts of England and Scotland. Anti-fur trade slogans were painted on the shops and some windows were broken. Once again, the actions received widespread publicity. A few days before, on March 1st, ALF activists had drawn attention to the cruelty of the Canadian Seal Hunt, by pouring red paint all over the steps of Canada House in Trafalgar Square. In Sussex, ALF activists have mounted an intensive campaign against the local fur trade, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage to fur shops. Publicity gained has lost fur traders in the area a considerable amount of custom. Unfortunately two activists were arrested in February and ordered to pay over £1,000 by Hove magistrates. A fund has been set up to help them.



Pigs in an intensive unit. (In case you'd wondered ...)

Increasingly this year, other animal protection societies which, in the past, have expressed opposition to militant tactics, are beginning to give support to the ALF, as they realise how much direct action methods are starting to make headway in the battle against animal exploitation.

Ronnie

ALF International

THE success of the ALF in Britain has prompted the formation of similar groups in many different parts of the world.

In Europe there are groups similar to the ALF in France, Italy, Sweden and Holland, and others are in the process of formation in several other European countries. The most active European group seems to be Dierenbeurijdsfront - (D.B.F.) in Holland. In recent months they have liberated hundreds of animals from vivisection labs, factory farms, fur farms, etc.

In North America, the International Animal Liberation Front has carried out actions in New York, Florida, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal, in which animals have been liberated and damage caused to property belonging to the vivisection industry and the fur trade.

The ALF has contact with many of these groups, and in the fairly near future, actions will take place on an International scale.

Ronnie



Dog experimented on at New York University Laboratory.

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